Inside Wallops

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Goddard Space Flight Center
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Efforts to Protect Wallops' Shoreline Underway

Throughout many years of Atlantic storms, the shoreline of Wallops Island has suffered tidal flooding and shoreline damage. In an effort to protect and maintain Wallops Island's shoreline, contractors are using an innovative tool.

Geotubes are being placed along what will eventually span approximately 4,600 feet of shoreline. The geotextile geotubes are large, sand filled fabric bags of lengths up to 200 feet. They are designed to handle pressurized flows and are quickly filled by pumping in a sand slurry. The water seeps out of the fabrics leaving the sand inside. After filling, they are oval in cross-section and quite massive and hard.

Before construction, all roots, debris and stones were removed from the beach to protect the tubes from any damage. The tubes are then rolled out and anchored. Before they are filled, the tubes are positioned so as to overlap the adjacent tubes insuring that no gaps exist between the individual tubes.

The tubes are filled using a hydraulic pumping system from two surry pits. One pulls water from the Atlantic Ocean and the other pulls water from Hog Creek. The fill is a mixture of 90% water and 10% sand. The sand was delivered to Wallops Island from a pit in Altantic, Va. The tubes retain the fill material while allowing water to permeate through the tube wall.

The project's initial stages began in September 2006 and should see completion by this April.

The geotubes are a temporary solution and will allow time for the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a design of the permanent solution.

The permanent solution will include a beach fill along approximately 22,000 feet of the Wallops shoreline, as well as strategically placed, detached breakwaters just off the coast.

NASA Photos

Geotubes being constructed on the Wallops shoreline.

Wallops Shorts.....

Balloon Launch
A NASA scientific balloon was launched from ESRANGE in Kiruna, Sweden, on February 7.

The 11.82 million cubic foot balloon carried the Mark IV solar occultation infrared interferometer and a secondary instrument, an ozone photometer. The data collected also will be used to provide validation for NASA's EOS Aura satellite. After reaching float altitude of 112,000 feet the balloon failed and a termination was initiates. Recovery operations were conducted by helicopter. A reflight of the payload is planned between February 15 and 18.

Dr. Geoffrey Toon, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory is the principal investigator. Total flight time was 2 hours, 36 minutes.

On the Road
Dr. John Campbell, Wallops Director; Bruce Underwood, Advanced Projects Office and Cheryl Yuhas, Suborbital Science Manager, Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters visited the Poker Flat Research Range and Kodiak, Alaska, during the week of February 5.

Mike Hitch and Scott Schaire, NASA Advanced Projects Office, attended the FAA (Federal Aviation Association) Commercial Space Transportation Conference in Crystal City, Va., and the AUVSI (Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International) Conference in Washington, D.C. last week.

Poker Flat Research Range, Alaska Sounding Rocket Campaign
The February launch window opened on February 5, but winds have been a factor hampering ops during the evening.

Aurora activity has picked up and the team has seen nice auroras overhead. Unfortunately, this was not the science event that either mission was looking for - too far south.

Fantastic Mirror

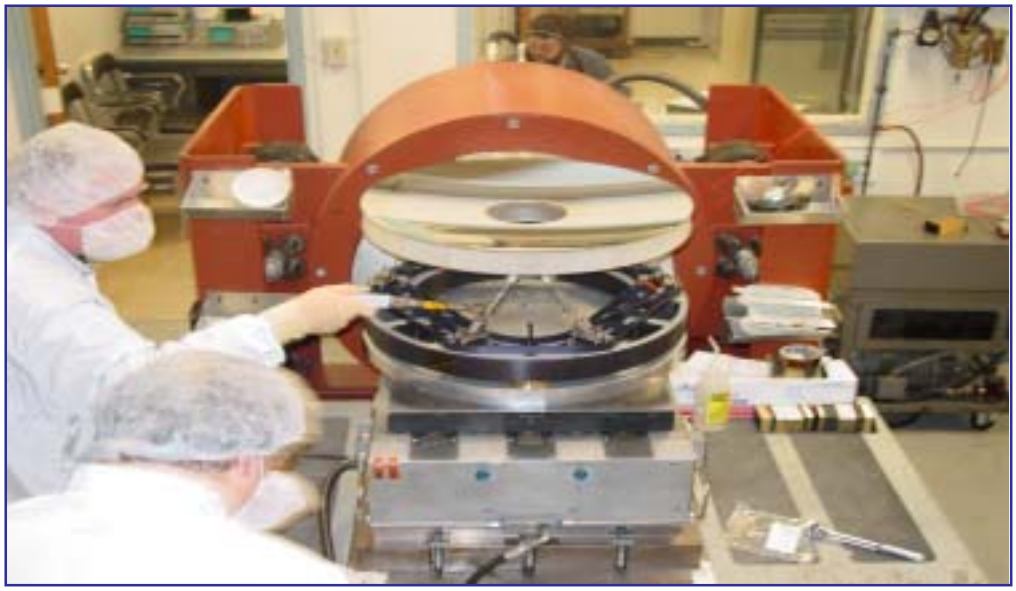

Photo by Rob Marshall

NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) employees examine the "fantastic" mirror, designed by Dr. Douglas Rabin, Chief of the Solar Physics Laboratory at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The extremely fragile solar mirror was undergoing testing in the Environmental Lab, Building F-10 during the week of February 5. The 20 inch mirror is extremely light, 10 pounds rather than the 100+ pounds that a typical solar mirror would weigh. The mirror is part of the University of Boston's PICTURE (Planet Imaging Concept Test Bed Using Rocket Experiment) payload to be flown on a Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket in July 2007 from White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

VT Griffin Employees Receive Safety Award

Photo by Keith Koehler

VT Griffin employees were recently recognized during the Wallops Executive Safety Council meeting for their performance in responding to a critical emergency on the morning of January 3, 2007.

Each of the employees contributed to saving the life of a co-worker through actions taken during the emergency. This superior execution, which included rapid response, correct application of skills, and tenacity under pressure, provided the necessary advantage while awaiting the arrival of Wallops emergency medical service.

Pictured left to right Phil Crofton , Rodney Beasley, Wayne Webster, Sheila Coulbourne, Sandy Phipps, and Wallops Director, Dr. John Campbell.

New Wallops Website

The Wallops Flight Facility website has moved to http://www.nasa.gov/wallops The new look of the Wallops website matches the other centers in the Agency. Don't forget to update your bookmarks and shortcuts to reflect this change.

For any questions, comments, concerns or complaints, call Sandy Kleckner at x1929.

Wallops Island Road Closed

The Beach Road on Wallops Island is closed to all traffic from Building X-75 at the flag pole intersection north to Building W65.

The road will remain closed to traffic until erection of the new MET Tower is complete, approximately two weeks. A crane will be lifting tower sections and connecting them in place.

If there are any questions or for additional information, contact Jerry Wall at x1232.

Debedeavon Toastmasters Membership Drive & Table Topics

February 21
Building E-2 Training Room
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Do you want to refine your public speaking skills? Learn better techniques for effective speaking? Increase your awareness of what you do well and not so well? Do you need a safe space to practice your delivery? Would you like feedback on your performance?

Toastmasters can help you become aware of your public speaking strengths and weaknesses and practice, practice, practice.

For information, stop by the membership table in E-2 or contact Mike Barnhill at x1641 or by email: Micaela.A.Barnhill.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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